**Energy Conservation & Building Standards Meeting**

*In attendance: Alex Dzurick, Claudia Szczepaniak, Dhara Patel, Fred Hahn, Karl Helmink, Marian Huhman, Morgan Johnston, Morgan Kaplan, iSEE special intern Natalie Pelekh, iSEE special intern.*

1. Introductions with Natalie Pelekh, Green Labs Initiative intern.
2. Discussion of Big Picture Recommendation for Energy Conservation
	1. KH corrects savings of tens of thousands of dollars to millions of dollars and advises softening the zero-growth in square footage goal and the carbon neutrality goal.
	2. From FY07 to FY15, avoided an $8 million energy cost per year due to ESCOs, retrocommissioning, and other energy conservation projects.
	3. FH notes that continuing energy conservation efforts are going to be more expensive as we reach for higher hanging fruits. We have picked much of the low hanging fruit already.
	4. MJ: Ben is supposed to be talking to Petascale in hopes of persuading them to move in the direction of clean energy. For now, Petascale is not part of the specific energy conservation goals (but not unrelated) to our SWATeam’s iCAP goals.
		1. MH comments that the iCAP often notes that Petascale and auxiliaries are excluded.
	5. Key is to speak to people in terms of dollars rather than energy because dollars hit harder and are easier to understand.
	6. Annual report states that 9% must be cut from the budget, but we can’t just turn the power off, so have to make an argument for why funding energy conservation would save money in the long run.
		1. If we don’t spend the money, we can’t save the money.
		2. Could create a projection of potential savings if energy conservation funding isn’t cut and present this information using a graphic in the proposal.
		3. Will work on coming up with some sort of graphic to show what would happen to energy costs without energy conservation funding. Main point is that without energy conservation funding, the University will be spending more in the long run.
		4. Could pick a number of buildings that were retrocommissioned and describe the cost savings and compare to what they would cost to run without the energy maintenance that was done.
	7. Interim Provost also said he would create topical task forces, and MJ spoke with Matt Tomaszewski (link between F&S and Provost) about having an operations task force for F&S.
	8. Marian and Jessica will meet with Karl to work on crunching the numbers for this proposal. Alex and Dhara will work on redrafting the proposal, which should be in the voice of the students and faculty. Dhara, Alex, Marian & Jessica to meet on April 5. Goal is to get this done by May 3.
3. Student reports on what students want in energy displays:
	1. Compare money saved by energy conservation to things students could buy:
		1. How many Starbucks drinks, Chipotle burritos, Blue Guys at Kams, kegs of beer
		2. Music festival or concert tickets
		3. Round-trip plane tickets
		4. Gas for trips to and from places
	2. Compare energy saved to KWH needed to:
		1. Make a certain number of pots of coffee
		2. Watch a certain TV show for a certain amount of time
		3. Use an electric oven to make cookies/brownies
	3. Instead of a number, want to see the change in a context that is more easily understood and processed, such as the number changing at the water filling station at the ARC. Students know they have actively saved plastic bottles from being used. Otherwise, don’t really understand how energy is being used and why the numbers may fluctuate.
	4. Show how many lights are on compared to the total lights in the building.
	5. Show how many kilowatts of energy have been saved and how that energy could power a certain number of homes for a certain numbers of days or somehow putting it into perspective. Like MK’s feedback about Starbuck’s coffees or gas.
	6. Display a tip of the week.
	7. Compare energy savings of particular building to neighboring buildings.
	8. Announce energy conservation improvements to buildings, such as solar panels installed.
	9. “In 2013 we were using this much energy, but now \_\_\_\_.”
	10. Will continue asking students about ideas and where they would like to see these displays.

Also: MJ will follow up about whether InStep has the capability to be like Lucid

1. Update on fume hood efficiency efforts
	1. Focus groups are starting this week.
	2. Kris Kristopher Williams, Director of Operations, Frederick J. Seitz Materials Research Laboratory from engineering interested in getting involved based on advertisement in E-week.
2. Illini Lights Out event update
	1. KH is still working on gaining building access.
	2. Facebook event is live. MK and CS will post cover photos advertising the event and send invites to students.
	3. AD will continue following up with the Student Senate on requesting event space.
3. Green Labs Initiative report from Natalie.
	1. Problem is that every lab is unique—light sensitive, time sensitive, etc. Need for customizable program, which requires collaboration between many different people.
	2. 3 main areas of potential improvement: fume hoods, freezers, waste reduction.
		1. Implementation strategies include signage, social media recognition, incentives for sustainable behavior, and engagement with students through courses.
		2. Problems include raising awareness of the program, maintaining performance of participants (especially in incoming lab workers), giving easily accessible feedback to labs, and funding monetary incentives.
	3. Could use an existing self-assessment form from another university, such as University of Texas at Austin: <http://www.utexas.edu/sustainability/documents/GreenLabsSelf-Evaluation_2015.pdf>
	4. MJ wonders if labs could be an appendage of the Green Office Program. Could have separate checklists for labs, offices, residential halls, etc. These checklists are then looked over by staff, labs are given feedback, and an award ceremony is held for top performers.
		1. This “green” branding would thus be extensive and encompass all of campus.
4. Next meeting will be Tuesday, April 19 at 3:30pm.